

The Mint of the United States at San Francisco,  
Superintendent's Office,

Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 1900.

My Dear Mr Roberts

In reply to your letter of Dec 28<sup>th</sup> as to the advisability of reducing the rate on Silver to one-half cent per ounce, I would not recommend the reduction at this time with the conditions as I see them here. It is true we have not received but few deposits under the new rate but there has been no publicity to the fact the Government made a reduction. All the dealers here in Silver bullion were notified but the information has not generally reached the miners. Last month I received two letters from Arizona making inquiries as to the new charges. There is a good deal of unfriendly feeling among the Selby people towards the administration arising from the past adjustment of rates, and I would not arouse further antagonisms until we find positively that it is necessary to secure to the Government its share of the business. I will try to get the newspapers to publish the reduction in Silver charges.



but I am not hopeful of success, Did you ever give the matter as news to the Washington correspondents? If they would publish it a wider scope would be reached.

X I fully agree with you as to the character of men who should fill the positions of Heads of Departments in the Mint, and have been satisfied that Mr Elias would sooner or later demonstrate the fact he did not possess the qualifications of character to be entitled to retain the position he was in. He has at last done so, He is again away from his duties without explanation or apparent excuse, undoubtedly on another drunk. I have formally written you a letter asking for his dismissal. I also notified Senator Perkins, and recommended the promotion of Mr Chas. H. Sherman, present 2d Asst. Assayer to the vacancy if made. Mr Sherman has been employed in the Dept for over 20 years, a man of excellent character and habits, a nephew of the late Gen. W. T. Sherman and Ex-Secy Sherman. X

Apparently the demand for silver in the Orient has ceased somewhat for Seligman & Co's agents have com-



measured departing with us again for exchange at Philadelphia. The agents think we shall receive considerable silver in this way for some time to come. If so next month we could coin some standard dollars, you desiring it done.

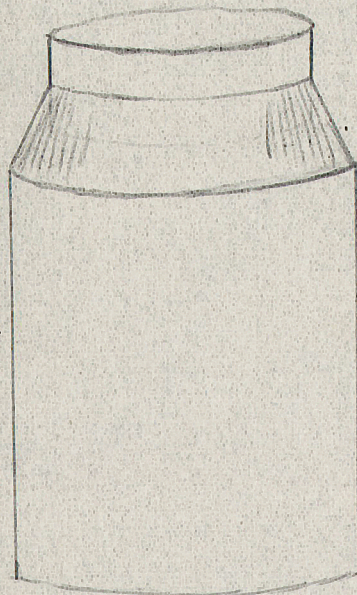
The dies we are receiving from Philadelphia do not have as long life as those hardened and prepared for use at this mint. Of the five collars sent here three broke inside of two hours. There is no need of sending collars, as long as we have the kumls the execution of the coinage is bound to be uniform, but if you still think it important to supply the collars, <sup>at Philadelphia</sup> instruct them not to harden the outside, the tempering should be confined to the center part only. The trouble, I think, with the dies, is too great length of shank, from the face to the base or shoulder. In our dies we brought the shoulder as close to the face as we could, see rough drawing herewith in explanation.

With Kind Regards

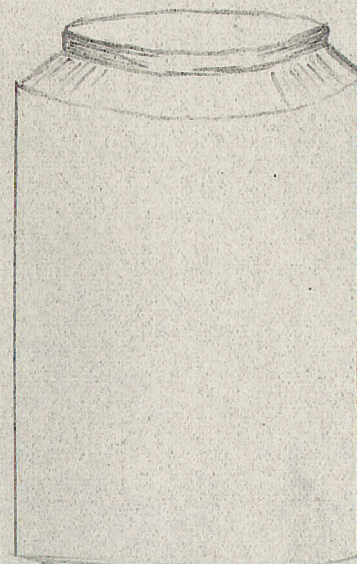
Yours Truly,

Frank A. Leach





Phil. die



San Fran die

My idea of the superiority of the San Francisco die is that the shoulder being broader and nearer the face reinforces it. The life of the dies prepared here certainly have greater life whether due to the form of making or not.